

**MEET ME ON ENRIGHT**





### **THE ENRIGHT NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION**

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

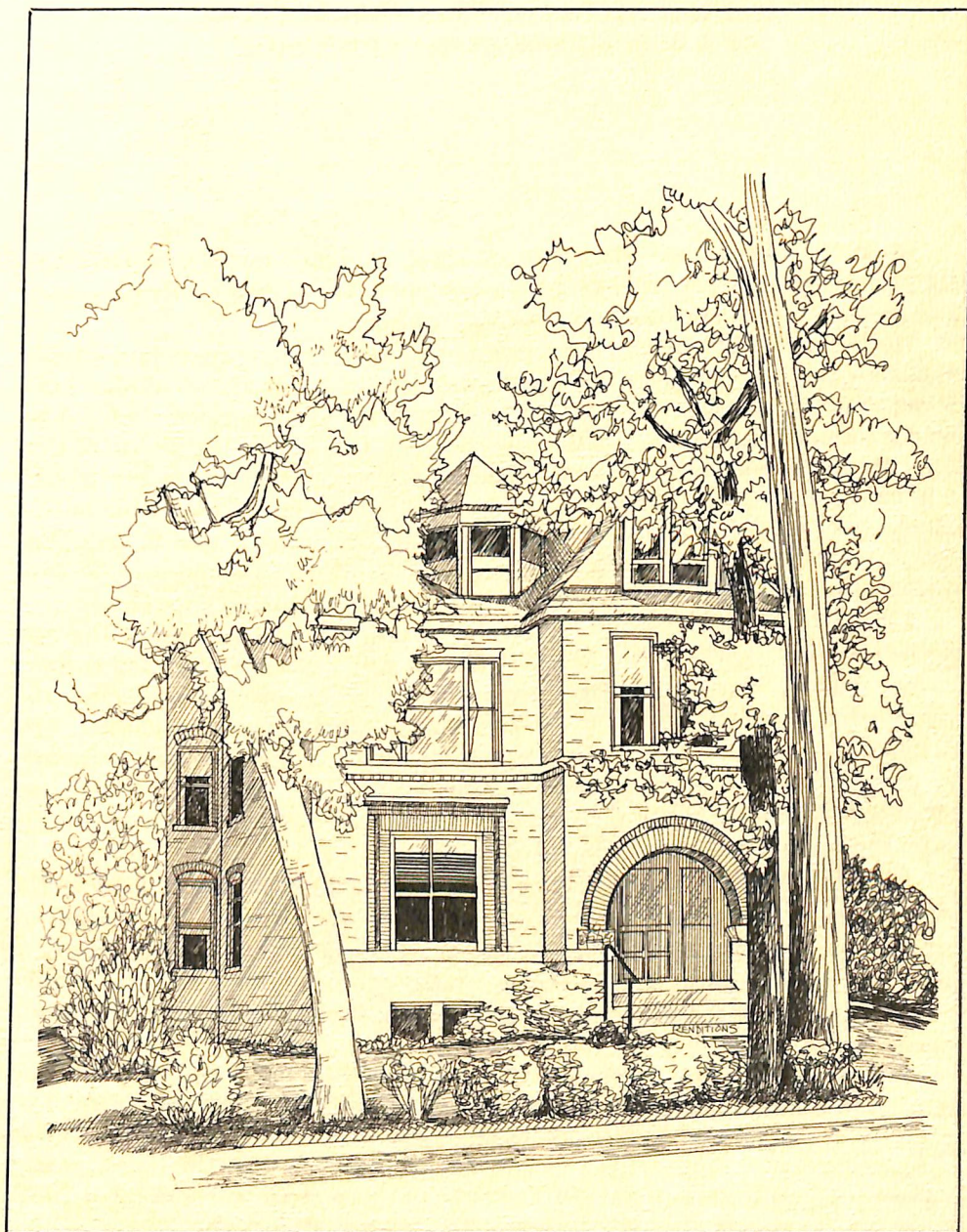
This collection of information is provided only as a sketch of our community's past and the contributions and accomplishments of some of the notable black residents that have lived on Enright Avenue. We hope that this issue, published in commemoration of the First Annual Enright Street Party, will be a stimulous for residents—past, present, and future—to record additional information. Such recorded information will be extremely useful to us in producing a more elaborate volume.

We are deeply indebted to Judith Arnold for the endless hours spent conducting the research so necessary to compiling this sketch.

Our special gratitude is extended to Enright Avenue Residents: V. Turner, Mildred Johnson, Myrtle Harris, Patricia Bond, DeVerne Calloway, Vera Bennett, Catherine West, Malachi Owens, E. Clark, Ernestine Hill, Mary Dreer, Ernest Calloway, Mattie Taylor, Patricia Taylor and Dorothy Johnson.

Special thanks also to Neighborhood Marketing Services for technical assistance, Gateway National Bank, Rozell Men's Wear, Slaughter's Cleaners, Universal Drywall and Construction Company, for financial support, and a host of friends and colleagues for constant moral support.







## **ENRIGHT AVENUE—AN HISTORICAL TOUR OF A BLACK RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY**

When Missouri joined the Union in 1822, St. Louis had a population of 10,049; of this number, 20% or 2009 were black. Slavery was quite prevalent, and only 196 black persons were classified as free.

The majority of these free black people followed the river trade and worked in such occupations as stewards, engineers, stevedores, and other similar jobs; some others were fortunate enough to work in domestic service. Free blacks held a monopoly on labor positions until 1830. This began the period of German immigration. Within ten years, the City's population had grown to 16,649 and increased nearly five times by 1860. During this time, the number of free blacks had increased to 1,755 while the slave population began to decrease. The City expanded its boundaries westward from the river encompassing 13.94 square miles in order to accommodate its still increasing population.

Far-sighted real estate developers were promoting a suburb of the city known as the Grand Prairie Area. This area was adjacent to newly formed Grand Avenue, and offered German residents an opportunity to escape the congestion of the central city. The area was subdivided and developed. Mrs. Eliza Clemens, a German landowner, created a street and named it in memory of her daughter Alice Vonversen. After World War I Vonversen Street was changed to Enright Avenue. The street name was changed as many others after the war in commemoration of war heroes.

In preparation for the 1904 World's Fair, fine large homes were built on Enright Avenue. These homes were among the best in St. Louis. The architectural styles were greatly influenced by the Georgian Revival and the French Renaissance periods. The large apartment buildings were built after the World's Fair. People wanted to live on the street and the apartment buildings provided gracious family living.

Prior to 1900, the Enright residents were mostly German and Irish land gentry and, the presence of black families was few. The outlawing of local restrictive covenants by the United States Supreme Court in 1914, resulted in the purchase of Enright homes by a few black families. After the United States Supreme Court outlawed the enforcement of racial deed restrictions in 1948, more black families were able to purchase homes on the street.







Many of Enright's new residents were active in the desegregation of public facilities and accommodations. Some people like John T. Clark, Herman Dreer, and Frank L. Williams, were founders of institutions such as Homer G. Phillips Hospital, Stowe Teacher's College, and New Age Federal Savings and Loan Association, all of these institutions remain as landmarks in the City and the State. Members of the Enright community were involved in the civil rights movement long before it was fashionable to do so. Consequently, the local chapters of the National Medical Association, the Urban League, and the National League of Negro Women were formed because of the efforts of people like Anthony Vaughn, Thomas A. Curtis, and Uxenia Livingston.

For a long time, Enright residents held middle and top management positions in government, business, education, religious institutions, and in private professional practice. Their contributions are mentioned here in order to serve as a reminder of the dedication and individual sacrifices that Black people have made to further racial gains and racial equality.

*Following is a description of people who have lived on Enright Avenue and of whom little is known. Information is by address and contains the building construction date (where possible), and a brief description of the residents who lived there.*

4100. (b.1927). A first-class luxury apartment building for professionals. Dr. Ralph Teabeau, Dentist, resided in apartment D.

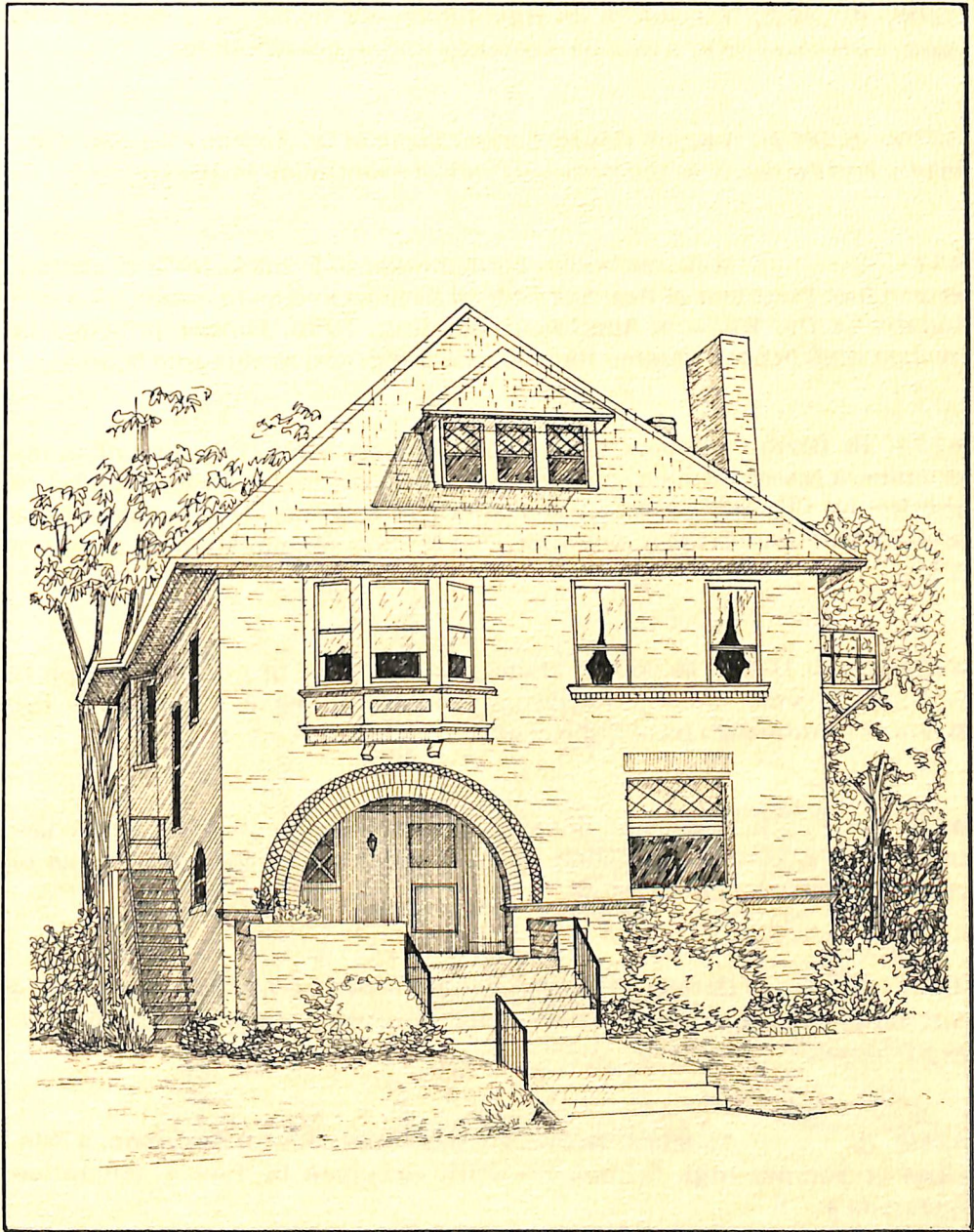
4145. (b.       ). Gracious single-family residence and former home of CME Bishop Nelson C. Cleaves in 1930.

4149. (b.       ). Bush House. Former home of Realtor James T. Bush a real estate developer in the 1920's.

4188. (b.1890). Lewis House. Former home of Dr. A. Thomas Lewis, an early medical doctor.

4190. (b.1892). Kennedy House. Home of Alderman Samuel Kennedy and family.







4208. (b.1892). The last of an eight-family row house. This property has always been owned by a woman. Currently under rehabilitation.

4210. (b.1892). Vaughn House. Former home of Dr. Anthony Vaughn, civic leader and President of the National Medical Association in 1941.

4217. (b. ). Williams House. Former home of Frank L. Williams, founder and first President of New Age Federal Savings and Loan Association and builder of the Williams Apartment Building, 1930. Former principal of Vashon High School, Sumner High School, 1908; and Washington School.

4223. (b.1926). Williams Apartment Building. Former homes of many prominent residents such as Attorney Frank S. Bledsoe. Original member of the Mound City Bar Association. Plaintiff in a school desegregation case against Washington University which led the way for admission of blacks in 1952.

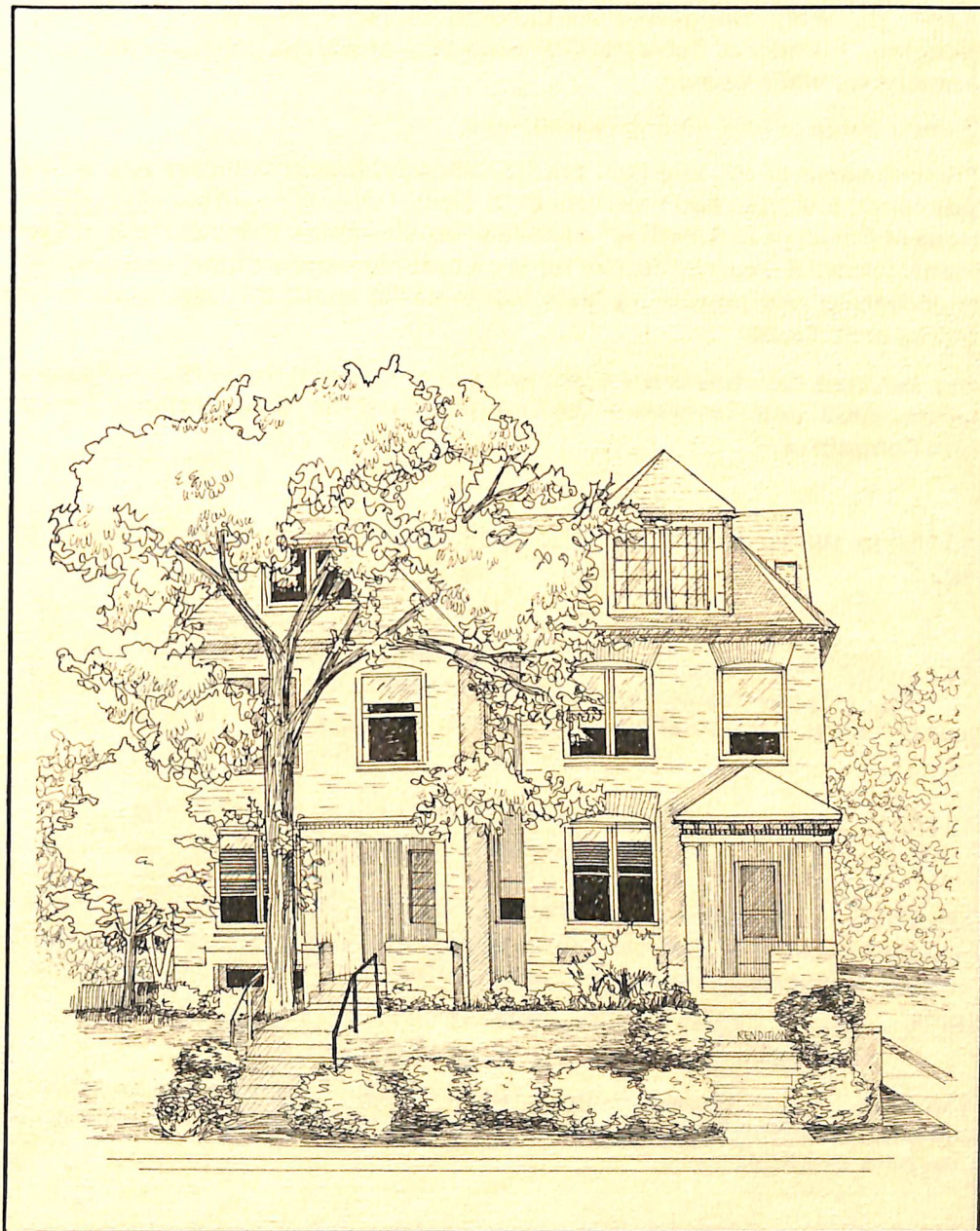
4225-29. (b.1926). McLemore House. Former home of Attorney Joseph L. McLemore, democratic candidate for Congress in 1928. President of the Board of Curators of Lincoln University.

4236. (b. ). Livingston House. Former home of Dr. and Mrs. Earl R. Livingston. Mrs. Uxenia Livingston was a founder of the National League of Negro Women, St. Louis chapter.

4239. (b. ). Garner House. Former home of Attorney Silas E. Garner, a 6th Ward Republican Committeeman and the Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

4240. (b. ). Anderson House. Former home of John Anderson, a Principal of Sumner High School. Presently occupied by fourth generation Anderson's.







4309. (b.1904). Douglass-Reed-Calloway House. Former home of Harry C. Douglass, founder of Belva Manufacturing Co. which specializes in hair preparations for black women.

Former home of AME Bishop Nowell Reed.

Present home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Calloway. Ernest Calloway is a writer, publisher, historian and Professor at St. Louis University; author of "Foundations of Freedom In America," a series of articles about the civil rights movement; former Research Director for the Local Teamster's Union; and currently collecting and preserving historical material about the contributions of blacks in St. Louis.

Mrs. DeVerne Calloway is the first black woman elected to the Missouri Legislature, 1962, and currently is the Chairperson of the Missouri House Education Committee.

4313. (b.1891). Barrett House. Former home of Dr. William Barrett in 1927.

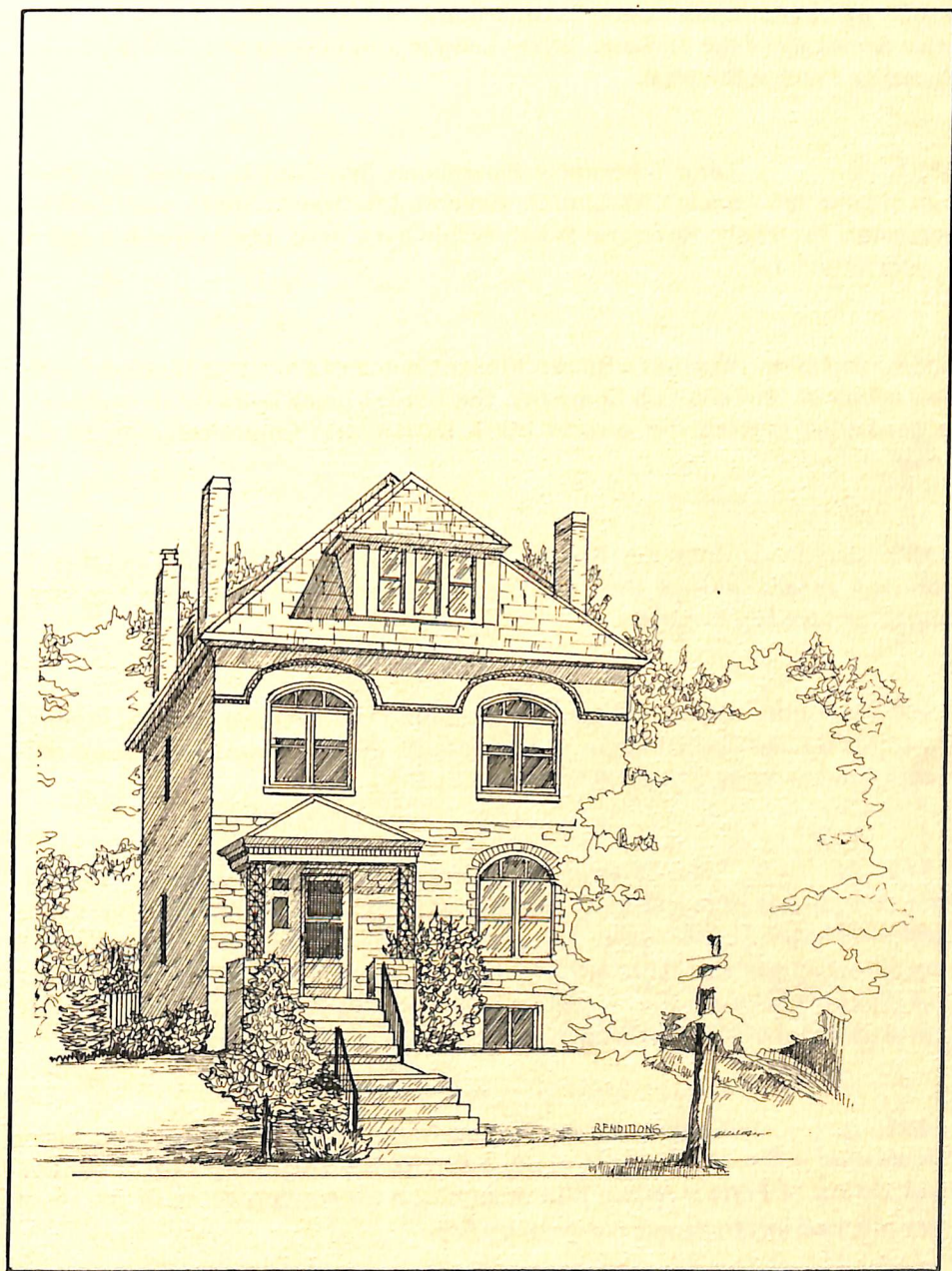
4317. (b.1886). Turner House. Former home of James A. Turner, Professor of Science, Stowe Teacher's College, 1930-1950; developed science curriculum for the St. Louis Public School System, 1938.

4318. (b.1891). Davis House. Former home of Dr. Edward J. Davis.

4333. (b.       ). Shaw House. Former home of Elijah William Shaw, musician and member of Cab Calloway's Orchestra. From 1915-1917, he played with renowned riverboat bands including Buster Barley's and Dunn William's.

4339. (b.       ). Simms House. Former home of Frederick Theophile Simms, businessman, engineer and founder of Ace Heating and Ventilating Company in 1937.







4340. (b.1919). Clark House. Former home of John T. Clark, an early Executive Secretary of the St. Louis Urban League and noteworthy fundraiser for Homer G. Phillips Hospital.

4353. (b. ). Lane Tabernacle Parsonage. Acquired to house the pastors of Lane Tabernacle CME Church. Reverend Nathan L. Smith was the first occupant. Presently, Reverend Isaiah Scipio lives here. The house has been totally remodeled.

4358. (b.1894). Weather's House. Present home of Frederick Weathers, former owner of Marcella Cab Company, the largest black-owned cab company in St. Louis; elected the second black Democratic Committeeman in St. Louis.

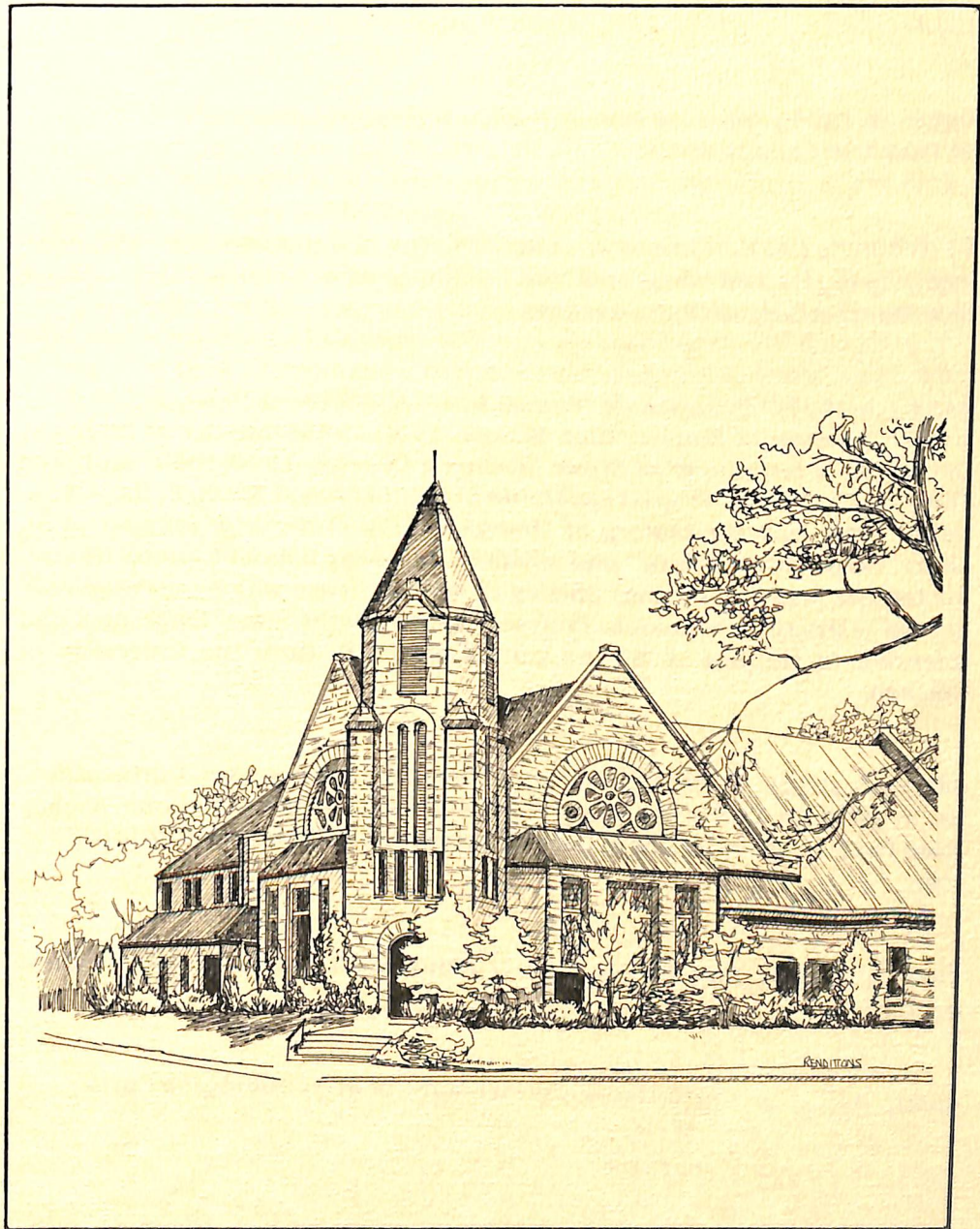
4362. (b. ). Johnson House. Present home of Mr. and Mrs. Rozell Johnson, retailer's since 1967 and owner of Rozell Men's Wear. The family is fourth-generation residents.

4367. (b.1888). Owens House. Former home of Reverend Malachi Owens, Pastor of Galilee Baptist Church. The parents of Mrs. Owens were John and Sadie Tranzer, early Enright residents.

4371. (b. ). Lane Tabernacle Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. The church was organized and named for the Presiding Bishop, The Right Reverend Isaiah Lane, 1898. In 1920, Reverend Nathan L. Smith led the church to its present location. It is the first black church to move west of Vandeventer Avenue. The church was completely remodeled in 1958, under the leadership of Reverend Amos Rice II.

4404. (b. ). Cooper House. Former home of Ira L. Cooper, first black Lieutenant in the St. Louis Police Department. Both Scotland Yard of London and Shurty of Paris awarded him recognition for solving some of the most complicated international cases on record.







4415. (b.1891). Mansiffee House. Former home of Dr. William H. Mansiffee, 1918.

4423. (b.1893). Williams House. Former home of Bishop Noah W. Williams, St. Paul AME Church, 1932.

4426-36. (b.1981). Enright Townhouses. The townhouses have the privilege of being the last houses built on Enright to date. Union Sarah Economic Development Corporation, Developer.

4435. (b.1927). Dreer House. Former home of Reverend Herman Dreer, Assistant Principal of Sumner High School, 1930-1945; founder of Douglass University, a forerunner of Stowe Teacher's College, 1930-1942; authored *The Tide That Binds, Negro Leadership In Saint Louis: A Study In Race Relations*, 1954, and the *History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity*; founder of St. Louis "Negro History Week," and pastored Kingsway Baptist Church. He conducted the research for the "Shelley vs Kramer" case which outlawed residential restrictive covenants. Professor Dreer taught many languages and sciences. At the age of 62, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

4459. (b.1922). Curtis House. Former home of Dr. Thomas A. Curtis, a dentist in 1889. Dr. Curtis was one of the first Presidents of the National Association For The Advancement of Colored People. Dr. L. Simington Curtis resided also.

4469. (b.1897). Holt House. Former home of Dr. Davis S. Holt, Medical Doctor.

4550. (b.        ). Curtis House. Former home of Dr. L. Simington Curtis.



4638. (b.1905). Everett House. Former home of Alberta M. Everett, Assistant State Superintendent of Negro Schools, 1944-1946.

This brief history of Enright Avenue suggests that the gracious yet rugged old homes that currently line the avenue were indeed a focal point for the beginnings and nurturing of significant racial accomplishments in the area of education, medicine, politics, religion, business, etc.

Dedicated, sensitive black professionals took pride in their community. So it is again, more than a century later, that Enright Avenue boasts of having equally dedicated and talented young professionals living there. In some instances, in the homes that previously were occupied by their foreparents.

This cyclical phenomenon that seems to have manifested itself along Enright Avenue continues to build a legacy previously established.



## **In Memorial For Our Departed Neighbors of Enright Avenue**

We are grateful for their examples of industry, initiative, good character, leadership, and good citizenship. They left us a heritage of dignity, human achievement and service to others. They are gone but remembered.

Prof. John B. Anderson, Sr.  
Beulah Bailey  
Dr. and Mrs. Barrett  
John T. Clarke  
Detective Ira L. Cooper  
Mary Crawford  
Dr. and Mrs. Davis  
Harry Douglas  
Rev. Herman Dreer  
George Eaton  
Marie B. Eaton  
Patsy Eaton  
David Ford  
Atty. Silas Garner  
Percy Gentry  
Dr. Josephus Gray  
Sarah Gray  
Henry Givens, Sr.  
Louis Handley  
Dr. Roscoe Haskell  
Susie House  
Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson  
Dr. Earl Livingston  
Uxenia Livingston  
Dr. and Mrs. Jack L. Miller Sr.  
Prof. Morris  
Bernice Ousley  
Prof. Phillips  
Gene Robinson  
John Rogers  
Matilda Stovall  
Dr. E. T. Taylor  
Dr. A. N. Vaughn  
Dr. Marlene Vaughn  
Mr. and Mrs. B. Wyatt  
Prof. Frank L. Williams  
Others Unknown

From  
Samuel Kennedy  
Alderman Of 18th Ward  
  
Enright Neighbors Association

DeVerne Calloway  
State Representative Of 81 Dist.



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*We are delighted to congratulate the Enright Neighbors Association on their efforts to promote our community. The wide range of support that you are generating marks an investment in the future growth of the neighborhood.*

Larry C. Williams, Committeeman

Ernestine Hill, Committeewoman

Samuel Kennedy, Alderman

DeVerne Calloway, State Representative

Nathaniel Rivers, State Representative

Johnnie Aikens, State Representative

Weathers-Barbee 18th Ward Regular Democratic Organization



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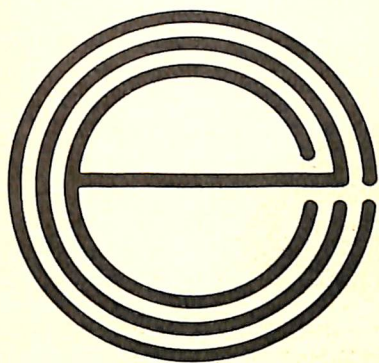
3338 Olive Boulevard  
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*Congratulations in your promotion of the famous Enright Avenue Community.*

*This example should be continued by others so that all of us can remain aware of our living heritage and the contributions of our leaders.*

Larry C. Williams  
Treasurer for the City of St. Louis  
and Staff





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